

**MEDICAL/DENTAL HOME****STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

All school-age children and youth should have access to a medical and dental home for preventive, therapeutic and restorative medical/dental care.

**AUTHORIZATION/LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Vermont School Quality Standards, Section 2120.8.1.3.3

**DEFINITION**

**Medical/Dental Home** – Provision of family-centered care through developing a trusting partnership with families, respecting their diversity, and recognizing that they are the constant in a child's life. Sharing clear and unbiased information with the family about the child's medical/dental care and management and about the specialty and community services and organizations they can access. Provision of primary care, including but not restricted to acute and chronic care and preventive services, including breastfeeding promotion and management, immunizations, growth and developmental assessments, appropriate screenings, health care supervision, and patient and parent counseling about health, nutrition, safety, parenting, and psychosocial issues.

**SUGGESTED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES:**

1. Collect information on the medical/dental update from parents on a yearly basis about:
    - a. Name of student's medical/dental home
    - b. Date of student's last physical/dental exam
    - c. Whether the family has health care coverage
  2. Inform all families of the Vermont Medicaid/Dr. Dynasaur program and its benefits.
  3. Assist uninsured families in determining their eligibility for participation in Vermont's Medicaid program.
  4. Encourage parents to schedule a physical examination and dental examination for their child if it has been more than one year or health concerns are identified.
  5. Document findings, referrals and follow-up action in the daily log and student's health record.
  6. File any physical dental exam information received in the health record.
  7. Promote awareness of and understand the benefits of preventive and remedial medical and dental care.
  8. Work with the Vermont Department of Health school liaison and school administration to establish Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) agreements and the Tooth Tutor program.
  9. Submit data about aggregate student medical/dental data on the DOE annual report.
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## RESOURCES:

- Children's Dental Care Guide in Medicaid – <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/epsdt/default.asp>
- Dr. Dynasaur - [http://www.smilevt.org/par\\_dr\\_d.html](http://www.smilevt.org/par_dr_d.html)
- National Center of Medical Home Initiatives - <http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/>
- Vermont Dental Society - <http://www.vsae.net/members/vsds.html>
- Vermont Department of Health – Local District Offices
- Vermont Department of Health, Dr. Dynasaur program - [http://www.dpath.state.vt.us/Programs\\_Pages/Healthcare/dr\\_dynasaur.htm](http://www.dpath.state.vt.us/Programs_Pages/Healthcare/dr_dynasaur.htm)
- Vermont Department of Health, Health Screening for Children & Adolescents Provider's Toolkit
- Vermont Department of Health, The Tooth Tutor Program - <http://www.healthyvermonters.info/hi/dentalhealth/dentalservices.shtml#Anchor-Th-18476>

## SAMPLE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND FORMS

- The Tooth Tutor Program
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## The Tooth Tutor Program

Vermont's Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program was developed in response to the concerns of school nurses, teachers, dental hygienists and other health care professionals who have seen that dental disease continues to affect children and has an impact on the development of speech, expressiveness, nutrition and self esteem. The Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program goal is to establish a dental home for each child. A dental home is a place where a person goes to receive preventive, comprehensive and continuous care, as well as a place to turn with dental questions or in cases of emergency.

It provides a system to identify the children in a school who do not have access to regular dental care, and to help families gain access to dental services in their community. The Tooth Tutor program also contains a curriculum so that all members of the school can benefit from the dental health education provided by the Tooth Tutor Hygienist.

- There are currently 120 schools throughout the state participating in the Tooth Tutor Program.
- Most of the hygienists are funded through EPSDT funds, and some are funded through grants.

The first step towards getting a Tooth Tutor Program in a school is to hire a Dental Hygienist.

- Dental Health Services maintains a list of hygienists who have previously expressed an interest in becoming a Tooth Tutor if a position should open up in their area.
- The hygienist will go through the medical history records to determine which children are without a dental home, as well as those children who have not had a dental visit in the last year.
- These children become part of the school's "Target Group."
- The goal of the hygienist at this point is to connect the target group children to local dental homes.
- In 2002, 89% of children in Tooth Tutor schools had a dental home by the end of the school year.

Recently Dental Health Services and Champlain Valley Head Start have teamed up to pilot a Tooth Tutor Program in Addison, Chittenden and Franklin counties.

If you would like more information about Vermont's Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program, please contact Dental Health Services at **1-802-863-7341**.

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